

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00263 161442Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 DHA-02 NSC-05

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R 161139Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5258

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PFOR YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

REF: 75 STATE 304308, 75 BELGRADE 6838

1. TOTH'S SISTER CAME TO EMBASSY ON 9 JAN. SHE CAME TO BELGRADE AT SUGGESTION OF TOTH'S ATTORNEY TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM FEDERAL SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FSFA) TO VISIT TOTH WHOM SHE HAS NOT SEEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. CONOFF EXPLAINED THAT IT HIS OPINION FSFA NOT PROPER SECRETARIAT TO SEEK SUCH PERMISSION AND SUGGESTED THAT SHE CONTACT INTERIOR MINISTERSAIYKSUP). SHE INSISTED SHE HAD BEEN TOLD TO GO TO FSFA. WHENYHE LATER WENT TO FSFA SHE WAS TOLD THEY HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER CASE. SHE SAID SHE WOULD PURSUE HER EFFORTS IN NOVI SAD.

2. TOTH'S SISTER SAID SHE DOES NOT HAVE COPY OF COURT JUDGMENT AND HAS NOT SEEN ANY WHICH LAWYER HAS. SHE SAID SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE MRS. TOTH GOT IMPRESSION SHE HAD COPY OR THAT EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK OUT TOTH'S AUNT.

3. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN APPEAL WILL BE HEARD BUT THINKS IT MIGHT BE LATE FEBRUARY.

4. SHE LEFT THREE LETTERS FROM TOTH, ALL WRITTEN ON TOILET PAPER AND RECENTLY SMUGGLED OUT OF PRISON AND GIVEN HER BY YUGOSLAV WHO HAD BEEN IN JAIL WITH TOTH.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00263 161442Z

ONE LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO TOTH'S WIFE, WRITTEN IN

ENGLISH, DATED AUG 17, IN WHICH HE AGAIN REVIEWS
REASONS FOR VISIT TO FACTORY AND EVENTS SURROUNDING

HIS ARREST. SECOND LETTER IS ALSO ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE,
WRITTEN IN SERBO-CROATIAN AND DATED DEC 17, 1975.
IN IT TOTH COMPLAINS THAT FACTORY MANAGER LIED AT TRIAL
AND DENIED THAT HE HAD GIVEN PERMISSION TO TAKE
PHOTOGRAPHS. TOTH SAYS THAT WRITTEN VERDICT WHICH HE
RECEIVED THREE WEEKS AFTER TRIAL IS ALL "FABRICATED".
HE MENTIONS IN THIS LETTER THAT "DURING JANUARY OUR
FATE WILL BE DECIDED", OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO APPEAL TO
SUPREME COURT OF VOJVODINA. HE ALSO REFERS TO THIRD
LETTER, UNDATED, ADDRESSED TO "BETTY" WHO APPEARS TO
BE EMPLOYEE OF GREAT WESTERN SURR. IT IS WRITTEN IN
FORM OF AN ARTICLE FOR "TIME" MAGAZINE WHICH TOTH
URGES BETTY AND WIFE TO TRY TO GET PUBLISHED. HE AGAIN
REVIEWS EVENTS SURROUNDING HIS ARREST AND ASKS HOW HE
COULD HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON.

3. EMBASSY WILL SEND THESE LETTERS TO MRS. TOTH AND
WILL ASK HER TO HOLD THEM CLOSELY. IT WOULD NOT HELP

TOTH'S CASE IF AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED HE WAS SMUGGLING
LETTERS OUT OF PRISON. SILBERMAN

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